

That is what this legislation provides for, nothing more and nothing less. It doesn't just help speed up the process of getting this equipment to Ukraine; it will ensure that we are actually sending them the items they actually need and can actually use.

Now, I know I don't have to convince my Senate colleagues that this is a good piece of legislation. We passed it unanimously 2 weeks ago. So we all understand what is at stake, and we are eager to remove the hurdles that prevent the United States from arming the Ukrainian forces with what they need to win this war as soon as we can get it in their hands.

I hope our Senate colleagues and the American people will contact our colleagues in the House and encourage them to pass the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act this week.

Every day we are learning more about the horrors unfolding in Ukraine. We have seen Russian war crimes in Bucha, and there are well-founded fears that the same carnage is unfolding in Mariupol. These developments should light a fire under our colleagues in the House to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Chris Alexander is a former Canadian diplomat, who spent time posted at the Canadian Embassy in Russia. He recently said: "Lend-Lease is a potential game-changer for the war in Ukraine."

A potential game-changer—there is no better way to describe this legislation or to underscore its urgency.

Last week, the Ukrainian Prime Minister himself said that our Lend-Lease Program is what Ukraine needs to win the war.

Over the last 2 months, Ukrainian forces have demonstrated unbelievable strength and bravery. So it is time, once again, for the United States to serve as that "arsenal of democracy," as Franklin Roosevelt called it, and ensure that Ukraine has the full range of resources it needs not just for today, not just for tomorrow but for the future as well.

After this bill passed the Senate, Ukraine's Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed his gratitude to all 100 Senators who voted to pass the bill, and he said he looks forward to its swift passage in the House.

So I would respectfully encourage Speaker PELOSI to bring this legislation to the floor for a vote this week so we can answer Ukraine's call to provide more weapons more quickly for the indefinite future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 800.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sherilyn Peace Garnett, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 800, Sherilyn Peace Garnett, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Gary C. Peters, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Maria Cantwell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 865.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 865, Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Gary C. Peters, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie K. Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Maria Cantwell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 670.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 670, Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Richard J. Durbin, Maria Cantwell, Debbie Stabenow, Jacky Rosen, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Robert Menendez, Jeff Merkley, Tina Smith, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that

the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, April 25, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 808, Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Mazie Hirono, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Ben Ray Lujan, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Patrick J. Leahy, John W. Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 135 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Collins	Lujan	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Tester
Duckworth	Markey	Van Hollen
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murphy	Warren
Graham	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hagerty	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	Young

NAYS—40

Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Paul	
Ernst	Portman	

NOT VOTING—6

Casey	Moran	Murray
Coons	Murkowski	Peters

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 54, and the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. I am coming to the floor again this evening to talk about the tragedy that is unfolding in Ukraine. This is the ninth week in a row during sessions that I have come to the floor to talk about the brutal and unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine—Ukraine, an ally of ours, a democratic country, and a sovereign country.

It has now been more than 2 months since Russia's assault began, and Ukrainians continue to fight with heart, toughness, and conviction. The Russians have been defeated in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. And the Russian Black Sea flagship, the *Moskva*, was sunk by Ukrainian Neptune missiles. So there have been some successes. But while Ukraine and its people have impressed the free world with their fierce defense of their homeland, the senseless and indiscriminate killing of Ukrainian civilians by Russia continues.

In this new stage of the war, Russia has begun an intensified offensive in the Donbas region in the eastern part of Ukraine. A few days ago, a Russian commander affirmed that their goal is to gain full control of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts—meaning control of all of the Donbas in eastern Ukraine, rather than the roughly 50 percent they took in 2014, and control of southern Ukraine, cutting Ukraine off from its Black Sea ports, leaving one of the world's most important exporters landlocked.

The commander also threatened the territorial integrity of the small country of Moldova that borders southern Ukraine by saying this would connect Russia to the breakaway province of Transnistria, where Russian troops are already stationed.

It may not be coincidental that today we heard reports of bombs hitting the Ministry of State building in Transnistria, when no one was there, by the way. Some say this could be a false flag attack, giving Russia an excuse to invade all of Moldova. All of the countries in the region are nervous about their status. They are worried for a good reason. They could be next. I can see why they are concerned.

We have all seen with our own eyes what is going on, on television or online, the videos we have seen, but let's not forget, Russia continues to commit war crimes and display an utter disregard for innocent human lives. They continue to prevent evacuation of civilians from Mariupol. They have executed noncombatants, and now there are reports of systemic rape and torture by Russian soldiers. This is on top of previous confirmed reports of the use of cluster munitions and thermobaric weapons on civilians.

As of February 28, the International Criminal Court announced allegations would be investigated. That is good. That must happen. But if they wait and have the proceedings once the war is over, in my view, that is too late. The perpetrators must be brought to justice. These horrific Russian assaults on innocent Ukrainian families in Bucha, Mariupol, and elsewhere, the bombing of civilian targets, the rapes, the tortures, all of these are crimes against humanity, and Russia must be held accountable for war crimes, not later but now.

If there is not accountability, more senseless killings in Ukraine will occur, and these atrocities are likely to be repeated by others in the future.

Many of my colleagues and I were on a video call today with the Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. He expressed his appreciation for the lethal support we have provided here in the U.S. Senate and in the House and through the administration.

But he stressed the need for more help, for more heavy weapons to defend and push Russia back in the Donbas region. He also detailed how the country's economy has been severely damaged and what they will need just to stay afloat.

Regarding military assistance, I am pleased that this past week the White House heeded calls from a bipartisan group of us to appoint a Ukraine security assistance coordinator to cut through the redtape and get the right military assistance to Ukraine more quickly.

It is important, with so many agencies and individuals involved, that one person be solely focused on this critical mission and be held accountable. That person the White House has appointed is a three-star general, Terry Wolff, who has extensive experience as the former Deputy Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and has commanded every level from platoon to armored division.

From the very start of this conflict, I have said we need to do more, and we need to do it more quickly. We cannot do that if our assistance gets bogged down by the bureaucracy. Every delay in lethal aid costs Ukrainians lives, so I am pleased we now have a coordinator, and I hope that this will streamline the process.

I am encouraged that the administration also recently announced further